



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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OROGENIA FUSIFORMIS **TAPERED-ROOT OROGENIA**

Tapered-root *Orogenia* is a small, glabrous perennial with a single leafless stem, 1-4 cm high, that arises from a rootcrown and long, thin taproot. The flower stalk and leaves are slightly elevated above ground level. The 2-3 basal leaves have petioles and blades that are twice divided into elongate, narrow, linear leaflets, 10-45 mm long and 1-4 mm wide. Tiny, white flowers are borne in a few hemispherical clusters arranged at the ends of 1-2 cm long stalks in an open inflorescence at the top of the stem. Flowers have 5 separate petals surmounting an ovary that matures into a glabrous, elliptical fruit that is 3-4 mm long due to the incurved, corky wings on the outer margins. Flowering and fruiting from end of April-May

The small size, white flowers, generally long thin root, and rounded appearance of the incurved fruit margin distinguish this species from other members of the Parsley Family in our area. The shape of the root has been found to approach a globose form in Montana material, a source of confusion with *OROGENIA LINEARIFOLIA*, a species not known from our area.